SARA SKYWAVES

W5SRA

DECEMBER 2021

"My Corner of the Shack"

Here comes the busy season for all of us. Office parties, last minute shopping for gifts, dinners with family and our Holiday Dinner on the 11th of December at Napoli's in Wylie. The cost is $13 per plate plus the cost of the drinks you chose to have.

Don't forget to bring your $25 Target or WalMart gift cards to donate to the "5 Loaves Christmas Assistance Program". They are helping to provide, at least, 466 kids with Christmas gifts through those cards. The parents will be given the gift cards, allowing them to shop for their kids and provide a nice Christmas morning for those kids in need. We will also be handing out our Bronze, Silver, and Golden Mic awards for weekly net participation. There will also be a drawing for three gift certificates (one $50 and two $25) for Ham Radio Outlet.

We are still looking for an Education Officer to help SARA identify speakers for our monthly meetings. If that is something you could help with please feel free to contact me at president@sachseradio.org, or at a breakfast or club gathering. The board could really use your help in this regard.

I want to wish each of you a happy Hanukkah and Christmas season. May you be blessed with good food, good times with family, and maybe even a new radio.

73,

W5JWS – John S

JOIN US ON THE AIR

NOTE: ALL SARA operations and all Sachse ARES/RACES operations are now being conducted on the new W5SRA repeater!

SARA Weekly Information Net
When: Weekly on Wednesdays, 8:00pm – 8:30pm
Where: W5SRA (440.350, +5 MHz, PL 110.9 in and out)

The Sachse Amateur Radio Association uses the W5SRA repeater in Sachse, TX:

- Frequency: 440.350 MHz
- Shift: +5 MHz
- PL tone: 110.9 (in and out)

TheW5SRA repeater is now accessible via EchoLink and AllStarLink.

Remember the Christmas Party is replacing the December Meeting!

Next General Meeting

Thursday, January 13, 7:30pm

North Pointe Church

7030 Hwy 78, in Sachse, TX.

RACES/ARES/CERT, John (W5JWS), Greg (KK6AXF), Tricia (K5TIL)

QSO Breakfast

Meet us each Saturday at 7:30am at Woodbridge Café at 7240 TX-78, in Sachse. People begin showing up around 7 with most showing up by 7:30.

Five Loaves

North Point Church is collecting for 'Five Loaves' which can always use donations to help feed families in need in this area. If you can, please donate non-perishable goods. There is a collection box in the foyer.

Education Officer

We are looking for a volunteer for Education Officer to help us line up speakers and topics for future meetings. There are a number of resources including other clubs that can help with ideas. Let John or Greg know if you are interested.

SARA Skywaves

Is published each month for the purpose of informing Sachse Amateur Radio Association members of current events and issues of interest to amateur radio. Articles and suggestions are always welcome. Articles that appear in this publication may be reproduced provided credit is given to *SARA Skywaves* and to the original source.

SARA is a Texas Non-Profit 501(c)3 corporation based in Sachse, TX.

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P.O. Box 1764

Wylie, TX 75048-1764

Where's Mic-o

Hidden somewhere in the newsletter is a microphone like the one to the right.

In the last Issue: Page 5

Famous Hams

Timothy Allen Dick KK6OTD is popularly known as Tim Allen, his stage name. At one point Allen was the fourth highest paid American TV actor in network prime time with One point 25 million per episode. The call sign KAØXTT was used in several TV episodes. Tim has earned KK6OTD in California.

Wednesday Repeater Net
W5SRA Repeater 440.350, Tone 110.9 @8:00 PM

Dec 1st Johnnie Young - KG5CQO
Dec 8th Linda Smyder - K5LCS
Dec 15th John Smyder - W5JWS
Dec 22nd Dave Gross - W6JDG
Dec 29th Steve Harbin - W5SOT

Sunday Public Service Net
W5SRA Repeater 440.350, Tone 110.9 @8:00 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 11 - VE Test Session
Contact: AC5BC (Bill) 214.500.3472, ac5bc2@verizon.net for additional details. While not required, scheduling with Bill in advance is appreciated! See the Flyer in this newsletter!

Dec 11 - Christmas Party

See Page 6.

Dec 23 – Board Meeting

Jan 13 - General Meeting
We will be meeting in person at 7:30pm at the North Point Church located at 7030 Highway 78 in Sachse.

Other Events for 2021

- Foxhunt on weekends
- Ham Radio in the Park (ideas needed)

Future Meeting Topics

January:

RACES/ARES/CERT, John (W5JWS), Greg (KK6AXF), Tricia (K5TIL)

Hey, Swap With Me!

If you have anything to sell or swap, if you'll send me an email, I can put it in the newsletter and it will be seen by well over 100 area ham operators.

Find us on Facebook!

Antenna Tuners

CW in the park is a lot of fun – if the setup is quick and easy.

Always take an antenna tuner. Tuning an antenna by trimming its length is a time-consuming, iterative process. When you are trimming an antenna, your body affects the antenna impedance – so it's back and forth between the antenna and the radio. That's not fun.

There are base-loaded antennas that are tuned by adjusting a coil tap. Those count as a tuner IF the antenna is shorter than ¼ wave. Antennas longer than ¼ wave usually need tuners with capacitors.

There is nothing worse than taking everything to the park and not being able to tune the antenna. Well, there is one thing worse – transmitting into a high SWR and blowing the finals in your radio.

*

There is this argument about where the best place to put the antenna tuner is. The most convenient thing for the operator is to put the tuner at the radio. The most efficient thing is to put the tuner at the antenna, sort-of.

Putting the tuner at the antenna – unless it is an automatic tuner with a remote interface – can be a time-consuming, iterative process. There is another caveat here: a tuner at the antenna does not tune the feedline resistance. For example, a 100 foot length of RG-8X could have an RF resistance of 10 ohms.

A tuner at the radio end of the coax will include the coax resistance as part of the load, but a shack tuner doesn't correct the actual impedance mismatch between the coax and the antenna. Your signal will head down the coax to the antenna, and some will go into the antenna. The rest, depending on the mismatch, will be reflected down the coax back to your radio.

When the reflected energy hits the back end of the antenna tuner, that's probably not a 50 ohm load. So, some will go into the tuner (and the radio) and will be dissipated there - and some will be re-reflected into the coax and head back to the antenna.

Every trip that the signal makes down the feedline will subject it to dissipation in the RF resistance of the coax. In a 100 foot length of RG-8X at HF frequencies, that might be a 1 dB loss – or about 20% - each trip.

So, an antenna tuner at the radio end is not the most efficient proposition. But it isn't as inefficient as some think, because some of the reflected energy shows up a 2nd time (and a 3rd time, and…) at the antenna.

*

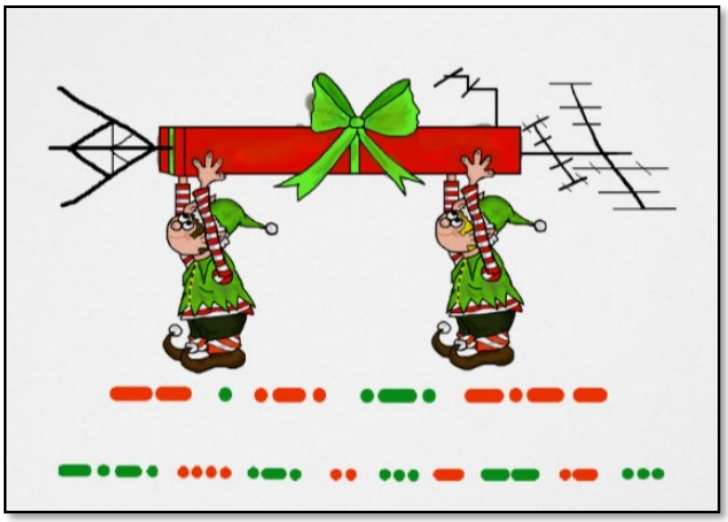
I use RG-174 in my "go box". It's skinny and easy to pack, but's it's high loss. All of my portable antennas are end-fed, so I don't have to get up high with it into a dipole feed point. I'm able to feed all of my portable antennas at ground level with a 17 foot length of coax.

Regardless of which coax type you use, for the purposes of reducing losses – a shorter feedline is always better. The only consideration here is the ability to get the antenna far enough away for safety purposes and reduction of RF feedback. I run 5 watts or less in the park (typically 2 watts), so that doesn't require a lot of separation distance. Seventeen feet is usually enough.

*

Nice Fall weather is here. Portable operations are a lot of fun right now. CW is the ticket to simple, inexpensive, and successful portable ops. See you at the park!

- Jim Eatman KG5WAW



SARA Supporting 5 Loves this Holiday:

5 Loaves Christmas Assistance Program is doing the following:

- Helping to provide a Christmas for 466 Kids this year
- Their goal is two $25 gift cards per kid which comes out to 932 gift cards from either WalMart or Target
- The deadline is December 5th so we have enough time to sort and distribute. However, if you have something later we can make arrangements.
- We already have donations from 35 business to fill stockings for every kid as well.

There are several methods to get these to us and we can arrange pickup or drop-off:

- You can contact board member Kimberlee Powell at 214-458-5408 / kimberleepowell@gmail.com to around a pickup or drop-off of gift cards
- You can also donate electronically using the Donate button on the top right of https://5loavesfoodpantry.org/ However, please send Kimberlee a message as the notes designating that this is for Christmas is sporadically working.

Join ARRL
or Renew your Membership

As an ARRL Affiliated Club, SARA receives a commission for every **new** ARRL membership and **renewal** we submit to ARRL Headquarters and get to retain a portion of the dues for each regular membership submitted.

- Clubs retain **$15 for each new membership** OR lapsed membership (of two years or more). A NEW MEMBER is defined as any individual who has never been a member of ARRL or any individual who has not retained a membership for two or more calendar years prior to the application submission.
- Clubs retain **$2 for each renewal**. A RENEWING MEMBER can renew at anytime, even before their current membership term expires

You can download the ARRL Affiliated Club Membership form here.

Once downloaded, complete the form and get it to the club Treasurer along with a check made out to 'Sachse Amateur Radio Association' and we will submit your ARRL membership application/renewal to ARRL Headquarters. (**NOTE**: ARRL Headquarters is working on getting an on-line version working so that you can go directly to them and the ARRL will send the club a check for any new or renewed memberships.)

Did you hear the Bugle Call? The Hunt is On!

The Foxhunts in Sachse are growing in interest. Each week we are having more people locate and report back on the find. If you are interested but not sure how to get started, you might reach out to one of these folks and see if you can tag along to get some helpful tips.

Oct 29-30 Backyard

Timestamp	Call Sign	Comments
10/29/2021 18:56	WA0RPT	Sneaky....
10/29/2021 18:57	KA5JAO	Not in my backyard
10/29/2021 19:27	N5JS	Tough to scan in the dark!
10/29/2021 19:28	KB5IAB	
10/30/2021 13:38	K9JN	

Nov 5-7 Industrial Park

Timestamp	Call Sign	Comments
11/5/2021 16:54	N5MMC	Thanks
11/6/2021 7:56	N5JS	Gotcha!
11/7/2021 13:32	WA0RPR	Dang metal buildings
11/7/2021 13:32	KA5JAO	I'm Sachse

Nov 12-14 Cross Way Church

Timestamp	Call Sign	Comments
11/13/2021 7:04	N5JS	Good morning SARA! Nice spot.

Nov 19-21 Smithfield

Timestamp	Call Sign	Comments
11/19/2021 20:28	KI5CYA	Good hide!
11/19/2021 20:28	N5MMC	Thanks
11/20/2021 10:03	K9JN	
11/20/2021 14:22	N5JS	Clever spot.
11/21/2021 12:47	KA5Jao	The grass needs mowing!
11/21/2021 12:47	WA0RPT	I dislike powerlines

SARA Christmas Party
Dec 11 at 6:30 pm

NAPOLI'S
Pizza & Restaurant

$13 per person not including drinks

APPETIZER:

Tossed Salad (with House or Ranch)

ENTRÉE:

- *Spaghetti with Meat Sauce*
- *Spaghetti with Mushroom*
- *Spaghetti with Meatball*
- *Chicken Fettucine Alfredo*
- *Meat Lasagna*
- *Cheese Lasagna*
- *Chicken Parmesan with Spaghetti*

SARA Club Officers for 2021-2022

Here are the current officers for the Sachse Amateur Radio Association per the election held at the September 2021 General Meeting.

President	John Smyder, W5JWS
Vice President	Greg Kent, KK6AXF
Secretary	Johnnie Young, KG5CQO
Treasurer	Linda Smyder, K5LCS
Public Information Officer	Jeff Feldman, KI5DDX
Director at Large	Jim Szot, N5JS
Newsletter Editor	Steve Harbin, W5SOT

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Working on a project that you think the club members would be interested in? Read a good HAM related article somewhere? Send articles to Steve, W5SOT, at:

newslettereditor@sachseradio.org

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

SARA vice-president Greg Kent, KK6AXF heads up the SARA Activities Committee. Anyone who is willing to help or has ideas may contact John, at vicepresident@sachseradio.org

SARA BRANDED GEAR

We now have two suppliers for SARA gear. Both of these companies have our logo on file.

HamThreads will do hats, shirts, jackets and vests. They can do single items. HamThreads is in Saginaw.

https://www.hamthreads.com

Cactus Awards is local to Wylie and they specialize in Awards, Trophies, Plaques, Engraving and Embroidery as well as Tee -Shirt printing. Minimum order for some clothing is 3.

http://www.cactusawards.com

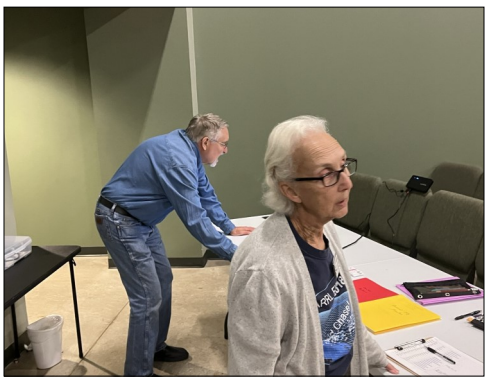
SARA NAME BADGES

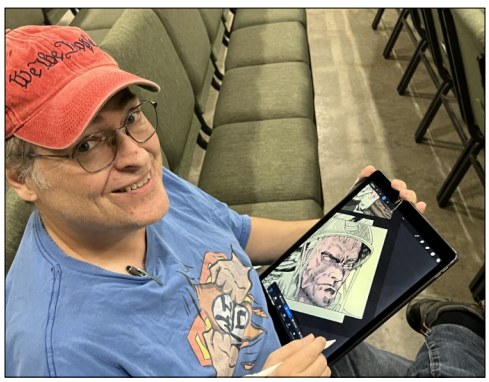
If you need a SARA name badge please go to:

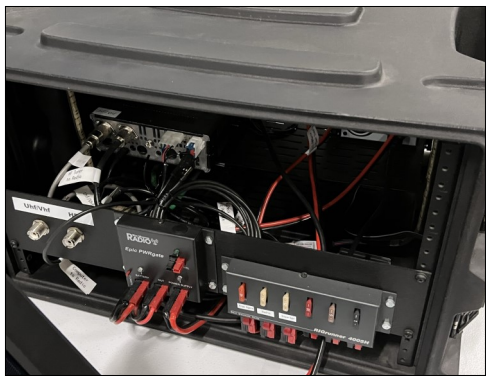
https://namebadge.com/sachse

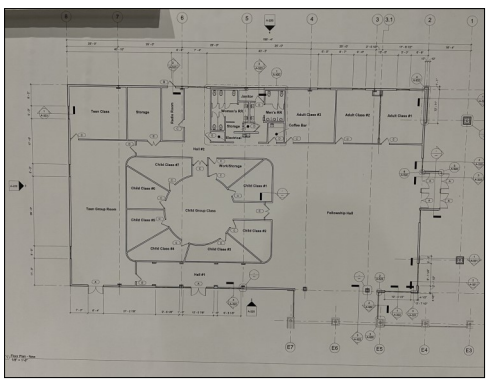
GENERAL MEETING

November 11, 2021

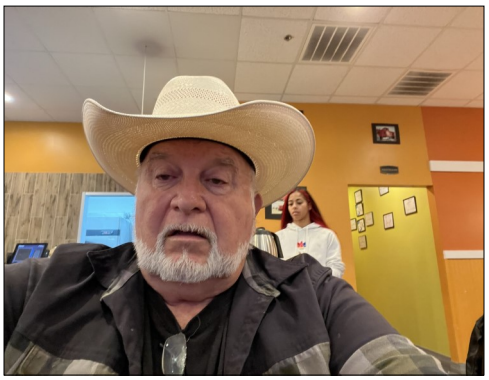








QSO Breakfast



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Sachse Amateur Radio Association
Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2021

Start time: 7:32 pm
Location: North Point Church
Facilitator: John Smyder (W5JWS) President

Opening

Pledge led by **John Smyder (W5JWS)**

John Smyder (W5JWS) President

Everyone introduced themselves and gave their call sign

Attendees:

11 members

1 guest

President – John Smyder – W5JWS

Next board meeting is December 23rd, via Google Meet

Holiday Dinner is December 11th for about 6:30

$13 per person (drinks extra)

Next general meeting is January 13th, for 7:30 pm

Five Loaves Christmas drive (466 families)

Jordan Powell of 'Five Loaves'

Christmas Drive for toys

Collecting gift cards of $25 each to Walmart or Target

Date for collecting is between December 5th and December 12th

35 local business are providing stocking stuffers

Food for about 3 weeks will be provided to these families

'Five Loaves' has a pay pal account, please mark donation for

Christmas Drive for toys

For more information go to
https://5loavesfoodpantry.org/

Vice-President – Greg Kent – KK6AXF

Activities Committee;

Weekly Fox Hunt in Sachse

Fox has been out, 15mw VHF

Other ideas:

Field Day is January 29th and 30th

Will send information to the newsletter editor

Any ideas for activities please send an email to

Vicepresident@sachseradio.org

Secretary – Johnnie Young (KG5CQO)

Minutes for the October meeting were in the newsletter

and are on the web page

The meeting minutes are available for

reading in a folder on the sign-in table

as well as the By-Laws

Motion to approve – **Greg Kent – KK6AXF**

2nd the motion – **Tony Fiorda – WB8ZWI**

All agreed

Motion carries

Treasurer – Linda Smyder – W5LCS

Not in attendance

Report given by **John Smyder – W5JWS**

Presented the bank balance

Presented the PayPal balance

Current membership is 31

Current members also in ARRL are 21/77%

Motion to approve – **Johnnie Young – KG5CQO**

2nd the motion – **Greg Kent – KK6AXF**

All agreed

Motion carries

John Smyder – W5JWS mentioned the club received a donation of 4 labtops

One will be used for AllStar

One will become a cold spare for the repeater

One will be used for the meetings

Have not decided on the fourth one as yet

Public Information Officer – Jeff Feldman (KI5DDX)

Not in attendance

Report presented by **John Smyder – W5JWS**

Saturday QSO breakfast at Woodbridge Café – 7:30 AM

Woodbridge Café is open @ full capacity

VE testing November 13th at Wylie Masonic Lodge

Need volunteers for NCS repeater

Nov 17th **Jeff Feldman – KI5DDX**

Nov 24th **Steve Harbin – W5SOT**

Dec 1st **Johnnie Young – KG5CQO**

Dec 8th **Linda Smyder – K5LCS**

Dec 15th **Lonnie Webb – KG5WHQ**

Dec 22nd **Dave Gross – W6JDG**

Dec 29th **Steve Harbin – W5SOT**

Jan 5th **Johnnie Young – KG5CQO**

Jan 12th **Dave Gross – W6JDG**

Newsletter editor – Steve Harbin (W5SOT)

Newsletter Posted to Web Site – Distribution (127)

Submissions for the newsletter are due by the first day of the month. My goal is to have the newsletter out a week prior to the general meeting.

Article ideas:
Projects that you are working on or have completed
Events and activities related to amateur Radio
Articles you have read in other publications

Remember, our distribution is beyond our membership and our content could encourage other people to come get involved!!

Send Steve Pictures and Articles!!!
(NewsletterEditor@sachseradio.org)

Director-at-Large – Jim Szot – N5JS

Nothing to report

Education – John Smyder – W5JWS

Need an Education Officer

Presents ideas for upcoming meetings

Please help with subject matter

Dave Gross – W6JDG

WinLink Basics for EMCOMM (Virtual Classes)

Presented by LA ARES

Sundays

November 14th & 21st

December 5th & 12th

2pm PT

Each 60 – 90 minute class will demo what you need to use

Winlink over-the-air, and is accompanied by a series of video shorts you can review at your won pace.

Sign up: http://cq.wavetalkers.com/winlink4emcomm

Upcoming General Meeting Subject Plans

December – Holiday Dinner

January – TBD

February -- TBD

Break: 8:10 pm

Reconvene: 8:15 pm

Presentation

Emergency Power

Dave Gross – W6JDG

Dave Gross, W6JDG, remarked that this presentation was about his thoughts on Emergency Power. He explained that his 'GoBox' has a Bioenno 20AH batter because it provides a good amount of power. He also discussed that a Lithium-ion holds longer before going down as opposed to a lead-acid one. He had ammo boxes as containers and said connectors were available from Amazon. There was even a USB connector on the side of his ammo box and there was a hook-up for his inverter. Remember 'GoBox' size is depended on the size of the battery you use for set up. His batteries connected to his Solar Panel. We saw pictures of Dave Gross's portable set-up for one of his moble trips.

This was an interesting presentation with references to places where materials could be purchased if one wanted to build their own 'GoBox.

This presentation is available on the SARA web site at www.sachseradio.org

Thanks to Dave Gross, W6JDG, for sharing his idea and procedure for 'Emergency Power'.

Adjourned 8:35 PM

Motion to adjourn – **John Smyder – W5JWS**

2nd **Greg Kent – KK6AXF**

All agreed

Be Safe

See Y'all in December @ the Dinner!!

Sachse Amateur Radio Association Weekly Information Net Script
Version: 6.5, Oct 29, 2021

Good evening and welcome to the "*Ham Radio in Sachse*" Weekly Information Net. My name is (*name, call sign*), and I will be your net control this evening. This net is heard every Wednesday evening at 8:00pm on the W5SRA repeater, on frequency 440.350, with an offset of +5, and using a PL tone of 110.9. Any and all licensed amateurs are invited and encouraged to participate (pause). This is a Directed Net. Please do not transmit unless directed to do so by Net Control. If the net should go down, everyone should switch to simplex frequency 146.400, with no PL tone or offset.
Also, if at any time, you have an emergency to report, break in by saying *"Priority"* or *"Emergency"* followed by your call sign, and the net will recognize your station and will stand by. An emergency is defined as the imminent threat to life or property. **Is there any emergency, priority or time sensitive traffic at this time? (*Pause*)**

Check-Ins:
We will begin by taking check-ins, three at a time. If you would like to check into this net, please give your call sign phonetically, your name and repeat your Call Sign alphanumerically, slowly, so Net Control can write it down. I will take three check-ins now. (*write down and read back call signs of check ins*).

Now is a good time for Net Control to ID.
Club Announcements:
Our first topic will be announcements from club officers. Any club officer on the net with an announcement, please give us your call sign.

General Comments:
Our next topic is general comments. Anyone listening to this net, who would like to make a general comment, or make an announcement, just say your call sign.

Now is a good time for Net Control to ID.
Tech Talk:
Now it is time for Tech Talk. During Tech Talk, you might ask any questions that you have of a technical nature regarding amateur radio or computers. You might share any information or comments that you think would be valuable to the group. If anyone listening to this net, has an item for Tech Talk, please call-in with your call sign.

Swap Shop:
The next topic is Swap Shop. Anyone wishing to buy, sell, trade, or give away items related to ham radio or computers is invited to do so. Please do not haggle over price on the air, but please give listeners a way to contact you. If anyone has an item for Swap Shop, call in with your call sign now.

Now is a good time for Net Control to ID.
Education:
Now we would like to know if anyone has an idea for an Education Presentation for a future net, or if anyone has a presentation to share this evening, please let us know by giving your call sign.

How Was Your 'HAM' Week?
This exercise allows any station to share any experience related to HAM Radio. Example topics can be "DX'ing Observations", "Challenges", "Lesson-Learned with your equipment", "Victories on a project" or even something you have learned from a "not so successful project". Anyone listening to this net is welcome to share. (If possible, share something you recently did.) If any station would like to share their "Ham Week", simply give your Call Sign so Net Control can recognize your station. (*Net Control – provide positive feedback on their topic.)*

Now is a good time for Net Control to ID.
Late Check-Ins
Before we end this Net, I would like to take late check-ins. If there are any late check-ins, please give your call sign and name slowly and clearly. (*write down and read back each call sign*).

Last Call:
This is now the last call for any station that might have any comments before we close the net. Please say your call sign.

Wrap-Up:
This concludes the "Ham Radio in Sachse" Weekly Information Net. If you would like more information about the Sachse Amateur Radio Association, please visit our web site at www.sachseradio.org. This is (*name and call sign*) and we now return the W5SRA repeater to its normal use. Hope to hear from you next week.